(b) what precautions have been taken by the technical experts to evaluate the quality and the price of such FAX machines;

(c) what is the range of prices of such FAX machines,

(d) whether any comparative study in respect of the technical quality has been made; and

(e) if so, whether it has been circulated to Government/Semi Government Organisations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) DOT gives interface and type approval for FAX machines without indicating their gradation on applications from the manufacturers/users. Any body intending to use the approved machines can purchase the same and obtain operating licence from the department.

(b) The techincal specification of the machines are verified/examined with reference to DOT's standard specification. Price evaluation is done by call of competitive tender wherever DOT wishes to purchase FAX machines for its own use.

(c) The prices are variable depending upon market conditions.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Telephone Exchanges in Uttar Prades

4239. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of old and out dated telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh which need replacement and modernisation;

(b) the number of electronic and crossbar exchanges commissioned during the period since the new Government took over;

(c) the number of blocks and villages brought under the telephone net work during the said period; and

(d) whether the telephones in the rural areas are working satisfactorily?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 270.

(b) 367 electronic exchanges and no Cross-Bar exchanges have been commisssioned during this period.

(c) 3219 Gram Panchayats in U.P. and 24563 in the entire country have been brought under telephone net work.

(d) Yes, Sir. However due to prolonged interruption in power supply in the old type of exchanges at some places, some lines get affected and these are attended to at the earliest.

Amount spent on subsidy

4240. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of subsidy spent on fertilizers, distributed to farmers and also the subsidy amounts on paper, sugar, rice, wheat etc. distributed to certain classes of consumers in the years 1990-91, 1991-92;

(b) whether the prices of unduly increased yarns, dyes and chemicals have been subsidised to help handloom weavers; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The total amount of subsidy spent onn fertilisers, paper etc. during 1990-91 and 1991-92 is as under: